

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multichannel image compression device comprising:

5 recording means for storing digital images on a plurality of channels in frames channel by channel into memories;

control means for performing control in such a manner that the digital images stored by the recording means into said memories increase in number on a specific channel; and

compression means for subjecting the digital images recorded by said recording means into said memories to compression coding by correlating frames channel by channel.

15 2. The multichannel image compression device according to claim 1, wherein said control means performs control in such a manner that, with the digital images on the plurality of channels being stored channel by channel by said recording means into said memories sequentially, the digital image on said specific channel and the digital images on the other channels are stored alternately in said memories.

20 3. The multichannel image compression device according to claim 1, wherein said control means allows said specific channel to be set manually out of the plurality of channels.

4. The multichannel image compression device

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according to claim 1, wherein said control means sets said specific channel automatically out of the plurality of channels according to the occurrence of a warning to indicate an abnormality.

5 5. The multichannel image compression device according to claim 1, wherein the digital images of the channels, which are stored in the memories by the recording means, are produced by a plurality of monitor cameras.

10 6. The multichannel image compression device according to claim 1, wherein said recording means includes switching means for selectively switching the digital images of the channels in units of one frame for each channel, when the digital images are stored in
15 the memories.

7. The multichannel image compression device according to claim 1, wherein an output from said compression means is recorded in a DVD.

20 8. A multichannel image compression device comprising:

recording section for storing digital images on a plurality of channels in frames channel by channel into memories;

25 control section for performing control in such a manner that the digital images stored by the recording section into said memories increase in number on a specific channel; and

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compression section for subjecting the digital images recorded by said recording section into said memories to compression coding by correlating frames channel by channel.

- 5 9. A multichannel image compression method comprising:

 a recording step of storing digital images on a plurality of channels in frames channel by channel into memories;

- 10 a control step of performing control in such a manner that the digital images stored in said memories in the recording step increase in number on a specific channel; and

- a compression step of subjecting the digital
15 images recorded in said memories in said recording step to compression coding by correlating frames channel by channel.

10. The multichannel image compression method according to claim 9, wherein said control step
20 performs control in such a manner that, with the digital images on the plurality of channels being stored channel by channel in said recording step into said memories sequentially, the digital image on said specific channel and the digital images on the other
25 channels are stored alternately in said memories.

11. The multichannel image compression method according to claim 9, wherein said control step allows

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said specific channel to be set manually out of the plurality of channels.

- 5 12. The multichannel image compression method according to claim 9, wherein said control step sets said specific channel automatically out of the plurality of channels according to the occurrence of a warning to indicate an abnormality.

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